

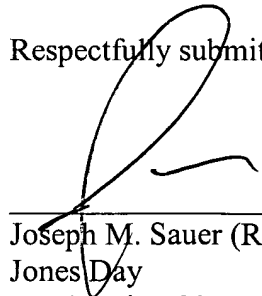
REMARKS

In the previous Office Action claims 1-16 and 21-81 were rejected. In an effort to expedite prosecution, these claims are cancelled. Claims 82-104 were previously cancelled due to a restriction requirement. Claims 17-20 remain pending along with new claims 105-174.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 17-20 will be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 17 and 19 have been amended to be in independent form. Claims 18 and 20, and new claims 105-172 depend from either claim 17 or claim 19, and therefore should also be allowable, because they contain the same subject matter that was indicated to be allowable in these claims.

In addition, the specification has been amended to delete the cross-reference and priority claim to United States Patent Application Serial Nos. 09/401,868 and 09/087,623. The Assignee hereby relinquishes its claim of priority as a CIP to these two applications. The priority claim to International Patent Application No. PCT/CA00/01108, filed on September 24, 2000, is retained. A cross-reference to this International Patent Application has been added by this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Sauer (Reg. No. 47,919)
Jones Day
North Point, 901 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 586-7506